

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA FILE

Leg

OCA 1888-88

15 JUN 1988

Mr. Ronald K. Peterson  
 Assistant Director for  
 Legislative Reference  
 Office of Management and Budget  
 Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Peterson:

This is in response to your request for the views of the Central Intelligence Agency on S. J. Res. 323, the "War Powers Resolution Amendments of 1988." Many of the provisions of the Resolution do not effect operations conducted by the CIA, and therefore we have not discussed these provisions in our response. We do have a serious concern, however, with one provision of the Resolution that creates a Permanent Consultative Group for the reasons stated below.

Under Section 3 of the Resolution, a Permanent Consultative Group is established for the President to consult with on national security issues. Members of this Group include the leadership of the House and Senate, plus the Chairman and Ranking Minority Members of the Foreign Affairs, Armed Services and Intelligence Committees. From the terms of the bill, it is not clear whether covert actions involving military personnel would have to be reported to the Consultative Group. In our judgment, it would be unwise to expand the number of Members who receive information on sensitive covert actions. Reporting on covert actions should be confined to the Intelligence Committees. We therefore recommend the Resolution be amended to make clear that covert action need not be reported to the Consultative Group when Presidential Findings authorizing such covert actions have been reported to the Intelligence Committees under Section 501 of the National Security Act.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on S.J. Res. 323, and we urge that the concerns we have expressed be included in any official Administration viewsletter on this Resolution.

Sincerely,

John L. Helgerson

Director of Congressional Affairs

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